

ASHBORNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1908.



ASHBORNE :
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TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHBORNE.

Annual Report for the Year 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year ending December 31st, 1908, for which I now present my Annual Report; the most striking features in the health of the District have been

- (1). The continued freedom of the District from serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease, and
- (2). The continued low rate of Infant Mortality.

VITAL STATISTICS.

**Estimated
Population.**

The population of the Urban District at the middle of the year 1908 is 4206.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered during 1908 was 98, of which 6 were those of illegitimate children. There were 47 males, and 51 females, and the total number shows an excess of 12 over last year; but a diminution of 20 as compared with the average number of the preceding 10 years. The Birth-rate is 23·3 per 1000 of population, which is nearly 3 above last year's rate, but 6·5 below the average of the preceding 10 years. For the whole of England the Birth-rate in 1908 is 26·5.

Death-rate.

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District of Ashborne during 1908 was 46 : in the Ashborne Union Workhouse, 25, and in the Cottage Hospital, 3. Of the deaths in the Union Workhouse, 8 belonged to the Urban District of Ashborne. All the deaths in the Cottage Hospital were those of persons belonging to other districts. The total number of deaths, therefore, of persons belonging to the Ashborne Urban District was 54, 8 in excess of 1907 ; but 10 below the average of the preceding 10 years. The Death-rate per 1000 inhabitants is 12·8, as compared with 10·95 for 1907, and 15·8 for the preceding 10 years. For the whole of England, the Death rate in 1908 is 14·7.

**Infantile
Mortality.**

Deaths occurring among children under one year of age numbered 6, as in 1907, giving a Death-rate per 1000 children born of 61·2. The Death-rate for 1907 (calculated on a rather smaller population), was 69·7 ; for 1906, it was 104·3, and for the past 10 years it averaged 119·3. For the whole of England, in 1908, it is 121 ; or for Rural and small Urban Districts only, 110.

The year 1908 shows an exceeding low rate of Infant Mortality, and it is made all the more favourable by the fact that only one of the 6 deaths occurred from disease, viz., that of a child with whooping-cough. The remaining 5 were premature, or weakly infants, who died from feebleness within the first few weeks of their lives. In this connection, I wish again to call attention to the excellent work done by the District Nurse attached to the Ashborne District Nursing Association, which, though supported altogether by voluntary subscriptions, is carrying on work the cost of which, without its aid, might have to be defrayed out of the Public Funds.

Zymotic Diseases.

Only one death has occurred during the year from Zymotic Disease—a case of Whooping-cough. This represents a Death-rate of $\cdot 23$, as compared with $\cdot 47$ in 1907.

Phthisis.

The Death-rate from Phthisis which was above the average last year has fallen again in 1908. Only 4 Deaths occurred, as against 7 in 1907. The Death-rate is $\cdot 95$ in 1908 ; and $1\cdot 6$ in 1907.

**Respiratory Diseases.
(other than Phthisis).**

The number of Deaths from these Diseases was again below the average, being 6 (3 from Bronchitis, and 3 from Pneumonia), as against 7 in 1907, and 11 in each of the three preceding years. The Death-rate is $1\cdot 4$ per 1000 of population.

Heart Disease.

Heart Disease was more fatal in 1908 than in any recent year, 6 deaths from this cause being registered in 1908, and only one in 1907. The Death-rate shows a corresponding rise from $\cdot 23$ in 1907 to $1\cdot 4$ in 1908,

Cancer.

Cancer also gave rise to more Deaths in 1908 than in the previous year, viz., 3, as compared with 1 in 1907; but it was less fatal than in 1906 (6 deaths), and in 1905 (4 deaths). The Death-rate is $\cdot 71$ per 1000 of population.

Infectious Diseases.

The year 1908 was again a very favourable one as regards the prevalence of Infectious Disease. Influenza has occurred in slight outbreaks of a mild type ; and Whooping-cough was prevalent in July and August, but was fortunately the cause of only one Death. Eight cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease have occurred, but

more than half of these (viz. 5), were cases of Erysipelas. There were 2 cases of Diphtheria (both in November), and a doubtful case of Enteric Fever in March.

Sewage Disposal.

At the end of 1907 the Council were awaiting the decision of the Local Government Board, after the Second Inquiry, held on September 12th, 1907. Since that time further difficulties have occurred in connection with the Council's Scheme for the Sewerage of the Town, and the disposal of its Sewage. After several interviews with the Chief Engineer of the Local Government Board, and much correspondence, the Scheme, in order to meet the views of the Advisors of the Board, had to be amended in several respects, and provision made for the erection of a Cottage for the Engine Driver near to the proposed Works. As a result of this alteration, application had to be made for an increase in the amount of the Loan from £13,970 to £14,930, to cover the cost of the additional work. This was agreed to, and on the 1st December, 1908, the Board sanctioned the borrowing by the Council of the sum of £12,050 for 30 years, and of £1,140 for 15 years, which with the loan of £1,740 already authorised to be borrowed (on 31st December, 1906), makes up £14,930, the total sum required.

The Council are taking steps to borrow the money.

Extension of Burial Ground.

Since the issue of my last Annual Report the proposed Site for the extension of the Burial Ground has been visited by an Inspector of the Local Government Board. On the 30th April, 1908, the Board wrote that after considering the Report of their Inspector, they were of opinion that the land adjoining the present Churchyard is unsuitable for burial purposes, and that

they had therefore, decided not to approve of its use for such purpose, and they recommended the Council to provide a Cemetery.

Cemetery.

Acting on this Report, the Council took the question into serious consideration, and after negotiating with landowners in the neighbourhood, have entered into a provisional contract for the purchase of a site adjoining Mayfield Road, in the Urban District, and have made application to the Local Government Board for a loan of £1,300 for the purchase of the land, and for laying out the same as a Cemetery.

Water Supply.

Ten samples of Water have been taken during the year, and in those cases where the water was found to be unsafe for use for drinking purposes, Town Water has been laid on.

Rainfall during 1908.

I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Twigg, the Waterworks Inspector, for the following record of Rainfall registered at the Waterworks during the year ;—

	Total depth in inches.	No. of Rainy Days.
January ...	2·02	16
February ...	2·42	22
March ...	3·16	22
April ...	3·05	19
May ...	3·71	16
June ...	2·81	10
July ...	3·45	12
August ...	3·81	15
September...	3·18	18
October ...	1·60	19
November...	2·09	18
December ...	2·89	28
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	34·19	215
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**Public
Health Acts
Amendment
Act, 1907.**

The Council applied to the Local Government Board and the Secretary of State to put this Act into operation in the Urban District, and Orders were made by the Board and Secretary of State putting certain parts into force.

**Sanitary
Inspector's
Report.**

Periodical Inspections of Slaughter-houses, Cow-sheds, Dairies, Bakehouses, Lodging-houses, and also of House Property and Yards, have been made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and disinfectants supplied to householders by the Council.

The Sanitary Inspector has, during the year, served 78 informal notices where nuisances existed: in every case the nuisance was remedied, and no legal notices from the Sanitary Authority have been required. Defects in Factories and Workshops have been few in number, of slight importance, and easily remedied.

**Medical
Inspection
of School
Children.**

During the year the Medical Inspection of School Children in the Elementary Schools, and of the Sanitary condition of the Schools themselves was begun, and for the present the work is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health of the District. The Inspection of Children was confined to those who were admitted to School after August 1st, 1908, and those who were eligible to leave during the current year. Ninety-two Inspections were made, and the results embodied in a

Report to the County Medical Officer, as was also a description of some defects found in the hygienic condition of the School Buildings, and this report is receiving the consideration of the Education Committee of the Derbyshire County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. SADLER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 30th, 1909.

